Dewan.—I shall consider your representation. But was there not a proposal from the Mar Thoma Syrian Christians of the place to start and conduct a Higher Grade School?

The Member said that he would only answer that the Mission authorities would not be able to conduct a H. G. S. School. He requested the kind and sympathetic consideration of the Government to the repeated prayer of the taluk representatives.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

139. Educational needs of the Shencotta taluk.

Mr. S. Subramonia Karayalar, B. A. (Member, Shencotta taluk) quoted statistics to show that the state of education was very backward in the taluk. The percentage of school-going population was low as compared with other taluks, both in the English and in the Vernacular Schools. The parents were unwilling to send their children for higher English education to distant places such as Quilon or Tinnevelly. He therefore requested that the L. G. S. School be raised to the standard of a Higher Grade Secondary School.

The people were grateful to the Government for introducing Tamil into the Vernacular Schools, but the authorities were arranging to stop the teaching of Malayalam in those schools. Though Tamil was indispensable to the people of the taluk, they had to acquire a fair knowlege of Malayalam also. He suggested that arrangements might be made to teach the boys Malayalam after a two or three years' course in Tamil.

Dewan.—Will it do if Tamil and Malayalam be taught simultaneously from the lowest class?

Member.—Yes, Sir.

Dewan.—Is it necessary to continue Malayalam till the highest class?

Member.—Not necessary. Malayalam can be stopped after the Third Class.

The Member next referred to the want of a L. G. S. School for girls at Shencotta. Out of 1314 girls of school-going age, not one had gone in for secondary education, owing to want of facilities for it. He requested that the standard of the local Elementary School itself might be raised and English arranged to be taught in the highest class. He added that only women teachers should be appointed in Girls' Schools.

Dewan's reply.— The policy of the Government is to have as far as possible only women teachers in Girls' Schools and that policy will be steadily kept in view. But the difficulty is to get a sufficient number of women teachers. The representations of the Member are noted.

140. The desirability of raising the Lower Grade Secondary School at Haripad to a Higher Grade Secondary School.

Mr. S. Subramonia Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Haripad) said that the subject was one that was pressed on the attention of the Government at the last session of the Assembly. There was a few years ago a Higher Grade Secondary School at Haripad under private management but it had to close its doors on the rigorous enforcement of the provisions of the Education Code. The necessity for a Higher Grade School was proved during the existence of the defunct school and the want was still keenly felt. The proprietors of the defunct school would be willing to hand over to the Government the appliances at their disposal and even place the school-house at the disposal of the latter for the purpose of starting a Higher Grade School. He therefore requested that the Government might be pleased to sanction the local Lower Grade Secondary School being raised to the Higher Grade.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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